

GROGER REVEALS THREATS; JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE IS VERDICT GIVEN AT INQUEST

Following a coroner's jury verdict of justifiable homicide in the death of Martin Joseph Graeff, Ernest M. Garcelon, proprietor of the Vista Market, 1709 Pacific Coast Highway, Harbor City, revealed to a Lomita News reporter that he had been threatened by two youthful women believed to be sisters of the slain man.

This was brought about when the two young women entered the market Saturday morning in the absence of Garcelon and told clerks in the store that they were Graeff's sisters and said: "We are not through with him yet," meaning Garcelon, he said.

Graeff was killed early Friday morning when he and an alleged companion, Charles Radice, 27, 3852 Goldwyn terrace, Culver City, broke the glass in a front door leading to the market and gained entrance, at 4 a. m.

Clutching the .41-caliber revolver which he had lying beside his bed for nearly four years for protection, Garcelon stepped quietly into the market when he heard the glass break in the door.

Radice was lurking along near the refrigerator a few feet away, Garcelon revealed, as he stepped into the store. Immediately covering Radice, he saw a head rise slowly from behind a soft drink cabinet halfway across the market. At that moment a voice coming from that direction said, "Drop that gun. I have you covered." Disregarding the command, Garcelon said he aimed the revolver toward the voice and pulled the trigger for the first time since owning the weapon.

The second shot hit Graeff, 19, of 10859 Oregon ave., Culver City, in the head and he died later in the San Pedro emergency hospital. Radice fled toward the door which they had crashed to gain entrance and the grocer fired the third shot but missed. However, Radice returned when the police arrived and gave himself up.

When the store closed at 6

o'clock the night before, Graeff and two other men appeared and tried to get into the store, Garcelon said, and he allowed Graeff to enter, purchase a loaf of bread and some lunch meat. Another of the trio kicked the door on the outside, disoriented because he could not get in. Graeff and his companions then departed.

During the inquest, Radice testified that he and Graeff had robbed five other stores during the night before entering the Vista Market. Radice told police that he stole a car and with Graeff burglarized two stores in Los Angeles and a grocery at the intersection of Anaheim st. and Wilmington blvd., Wilmington.

Radice told officers that Graeff obtained a .38 caliber revolver when they burglarized the Wilmington grocery. Both youths wore gloves. Detectives said they believed Graeff, apparently without any reason, fired a shot into a cafe at 111 Pacific ave. that night, less than half an hour before the pair attempted the burglary in Harbor City.

Radice told police that to his knowledge, this was the first time that Graeff had engaged in crime.

FROM ALHAMBRA
Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Neelands are entertaining as their house guest, Mrs. Sara McDonald, of Alhambra.

WEEKEND GUEST
Judy Clark, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Harwood Clark, entertained as her weekend guest, her cousin, Wendy McKinson, of Los Angeles.

People

and what they are doing

CARSON STREET P. T. A. ARRANGES MEETING
Carson Street P. T. A. will hold its annual Founders Day program at 2:00 p. m. Thursday, Feb. 14, at the school.

A skit, "Pages of the Past," will be portrayed by several past presidents of the organization to be followed by the presentation of a life membership. All new members are especially urged to attend. At 1:00 o'clock members of the executive board will convene.

SCOUT MOTHERS PLAN MEETING

The Mothers Club of Boy Scout Troop No. 241 will meet at 7:30 o'clock, Wednesday, Feb. 20 at the home of Mrs. W. C. Silence, 2372 Mariposa place.

TORRANCE LADIES ATTEND PARTY

The View Heights home of Mrs. Birney Milneck was a setting for an enjoyable Valentine evening bridge party Friday when Torrance and out of town guests were entertained. Those from Torrance included Mmes. D. A. Murphy, Sydney Hennessy, J. E. Miller and A. C. Steele. Mrs. Miller was among the winners at contract.

A. L. A. ARRANGES POT LUCK SUPPER

American Legion Auxiliary members of Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170 will be hostesses at a pot-luck supper at 6:30 o'clock Monday, February 25. Their guests will be members of the Post and their wives. Each lady attending is requested to provide a covered dish.

FERN AVENUE P. T. A. PLANS BOARD MEETING

The executive board of Fern Avenue P. T. A. will meet at the school at 10:00 a. m. Thursday, Feb. 21. Plans will be made for the Founders Day meeting which will be held in conjunction with other elementary schools on Tuesday, Feb. 26, at Torrance High school.

MRS. MILES' HOME IS PARTY SETTING

Mrs. Earl A. Miles was a gracious hostess to bridge club members who met Thursday at her home on Andreo ave. At the luncheon table, centered with an arrangement of hibiscus, covers were placed for eight guests. Prizewinners at contract were Mmes. J. Rogers and W. J. Neelands.

BRIDGE CLUB MEETS AT FELKER HOME

Mrs. M. N. Felker was a gracious hostess to bridge club members who met recently at her home, 1010 Beech ave.

Arrangements of daffodils in the living room and a centerpiece of sweet peas and roses, used on the attractively appointed refreshment table, accented a spring motif. Mrs. William Lukenhill was presented with a bridge prize.

CATHOLIC PARTY THIS EVENING

Mrs. Nell McConlogue and her committee will serve as hostesses for this evening's Catholic card party. Assisting her will be Mmes. Arnold, Vincent, Felton, Farrel, O'Dam and Miss Mary Scallen. Everyone is invited. The first door prize will be presented at 8:00 o'clock and games of contract and auction bridge, pinocle and 500 will follow immediately. Refreshments will be served.

O. E. S. OBSERVES COURTESY NIGHT

Members Courtesy Night was observed at the regular meeting of Torrance Chapter No. 380, Order of the Eastern Star, last Thursday evening when members filled officers' stations. Mrs. Billie Kerber served as chairman for the occasion. Later the group adjourned to the banquet room where a Valentine motif was followed in floral decorations and menu.

ST. CECILIA'S GUILD TO HOLD RUMMAGE SALE

St. Cecilia's Guild of St. Andrew's Episcopal church will sponsor a rummage sale to be held early in March. Articles remaining unsold at the conclusion of this sale will be contributed to the European Clothing drive. Those wishing to assist with clothing donations may call any guild member. For further information call Mrs. D. A. Murphy at 999-W.

DUNHAMS ENTERTAIN

Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Dunham were Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd V. Briggs, of Banning; Briggs, who is Mr. Dunham's nephew, recently returned from twenty months overseas. He served with the 3rd Army in England, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Belgium.

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